

Introduced by Senator Lowenthal
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Dymally)

May 12, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 48—Relative to the Paramount Hay Tree in the City of Paramount.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 48, as introduced, Lowenthal. Paramount Hay Tree in the City of Paramount.

This measure would declare that specified exits on State Highway Routes 91, 710, and 105 should be designated with signs noting the presence of the Paramount Hay Tree, a state historical landmark in the City of Paramount. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing that designation, and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, The region of southeast Los Angeles County and
2 northwest Orange County was dominated by the dairy industry
3 during the first half of the 20th century; and
4 WHEREAS, The towns of Hynes and Clearwater, which
5 would later incorporate together and become the City of
6 Paramount, were the hub of this regional dairy country with
7 hundreds of dairies, and also developed as the central
8 marketplace for trading hay and cattle, and became known as the
9 “Milk Shed of Los Angeles” and “The World’s Largest Hay
10 Market;” and
11 WHEREAS, The total Hynes-Clearwater hay market was so
12 large and influential that each day’s median price of hay, based

1 on the prices set by the many hay lots, was quoted by the
2 mercantile markets in New York City and printed in major
3 newspapers as the standard for the world; and

4 WHEREAS, A mature camphor tree, dubbed the “Hay Tree,”
5 was where representatives from all of the area hay lots would
6 gather each day to compare notes and determine that median
7 price for hay sellers and the world; and

8 WHEREAS, As one of the few remaining social and economic
9 symbols of the once-pervasive hay and dairy industry in Los
10 Angeles and Orange Counties, the Paramount Hay Tree was
11 named a historical landmark by the State Historical Resources
12 Commission; and

13 WHEREAS, One of the benefits of gaining that recognition,
14 according to the commission, is having signs placed on nearby
15 state highways noting the presence of historical landmarks, and
16 recognition of the Paramount Hay Tree would encourage visits to
17 the site and the City of Paramount and recognize the city for its
18 important role in the agricultural history of California; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the following exits should be designated
22 with State Historical Landmark signs noting the presence of the
23 Paramount Hay Tree: the Paramount Boulevard exit on State
24 Highway Route 91 North and the Paramount Boulevard exit on
25 State Highway Route 91 South; the Alondra Boulevard exit on
26 State Highway Route 710 East and the Alondra Boulevard exit
27 on State Highway Route 710 West; and the Garfield Avenue exit
28 on State Highway Route 105 South; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
30 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
31 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing these
32 designations, and upon receiving donations from nonstate
33 sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect these signs; and be it
34 further

35 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
36 this resolution to the author and the Department of
37 Transportation for appropriate distribution.

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